required by Defence Department or the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) No. Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Legal aid to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa

2762. SHRI JAGDISH JANI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is taking steps to provide legal aid to more and more people in the country.

(b) if so, the steps taken under different Central schemes in Orissa during the last three years;

(c) the guidelines that to the State Government's on this regard; and

(d) the number of poor people in India particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got legal aid in those years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The legal aid programme adopted by the Committee for implementing Legal Aid Schemes is of two-fold character—

(a) free legal aid and advice in all law courts, and

(b) preventive and strategic legal aid which includes holding Lok Adalats.

Both the above schemes are being implemented in Orissa.

(c) Under the Central guidelines. any citizen whose income item all sources does not exceed Rs. 6000/- per annum is entitled to free legal services in all courts upto the High Court and this ceiling of income is Rs. 9000/- for the Supreme Court. This limitation as to income is however, not pplicable in case of persons beonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and children, etc.

(d) According to the information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, in all 4,95,357 persons have been provided legal aid in India during the last three years (1985-1987). Out of these, 1,15,356 persons belonged to Scheduled castes and 29,851 to Scheduled tribes.

Formation of a River Board

2763. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plan envisaged by Dr. K.L. Rao, noted Engineer for formation of River Board for connecting the major rivers in the country that would solve the problem of flood and drought to great extent ;

(b) if so, whether Governments policy on Water Resources includes the plan envisaged by Dr. K.L. Rao ; and

(c) if not, what are the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : (a) to (c) Dr. K.L. Rao had given a proposal for a national water grid including the Ganga-Cauvery Link. A techno-economic examination of the proposal revealed that it would require large blocks of power for lifting water and would have no flood